

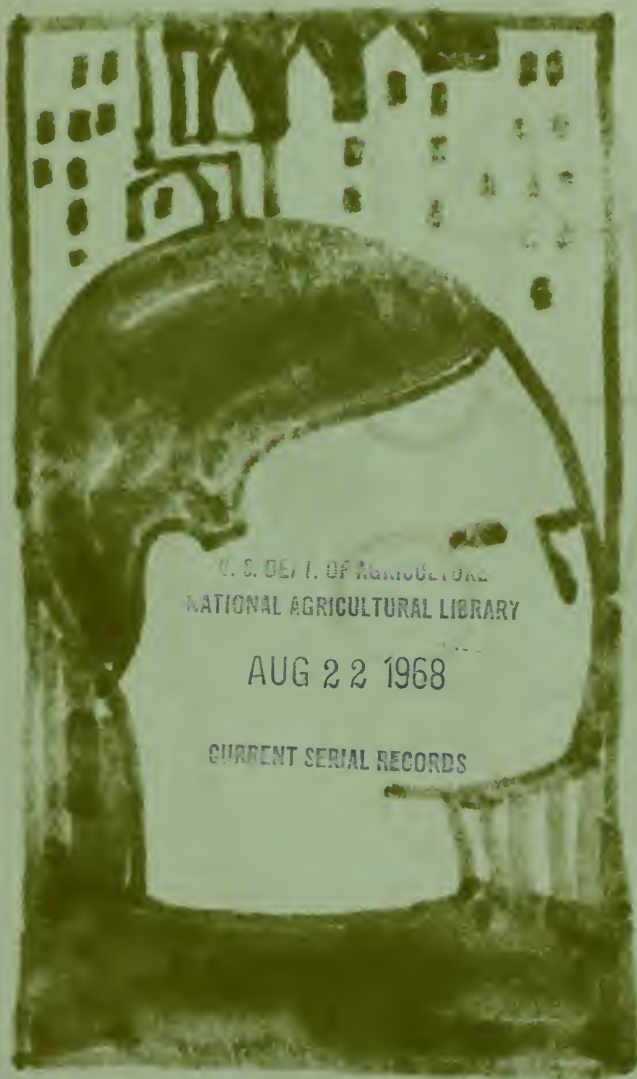
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GIVING A GUY A CHANCE



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## ... AT CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

Many Americans were shocked to learn a few years ago that this Nation has a major poverty problem—more than 30 million people existing without minimum needs for food, clothing, and shelter. These fellow citizens do not have the chance to obtain the good things of life—they are seemingly destined forever to be poor.

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was created in 1964 as a command post for a great War on Poverty. Under its sponsorship many national programs are underway which deal directly with the root causes of poverty. One of the most effective has been the Job Corps, especially designed to meet the needs of the young men and women who are a major part of the poor population. The Civilian Conservation Centers were set up for disadvantaged young men—guys who must be given a chance.

**WHAT KIND OF GUY.** This is the kind of guy—one of a national group of three million—who lives in poverty in your own community. Wherever you are, and whatever your community may be like, there is a young man who can be described as follows: He is between 16 and 22 years old, and has never had a job which paid more than the national minimum wage.

He is a school dropout, having finished less than nine years of schooling.

His reading ability is at about fourth-grade level and his work in arithmetic is no better.



He lives in inadequate, substandard housing.  
He comes from a family which has never known the security of a regular income.  
He very likely comes from a broken home.  
He does not have the necessary skills to get a meaningful job in our modern technological society.  
He is a guy with so much going against him he really doesn't have a chance unless he gets outside help.

**WHAT ARE HIS NEEDS?** Much of the Job Corps program is carried out in Civilian Conservation Centers. These training facilities are run for the Job Corps by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and conservation agencies of the Department of Interior. There are now approximately 80 of these centers in over 30 States and Puerto Rico. Each one has from 100 to 250 Corpsmen in training at any one time. They are found on over 40 of the Nation's 154 national forests, in national parks, on Indian reservations, wildlife refuges, reclamation projects, and Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Disadvantaged youth from rural and urban areas are being given a new chance in some of the most beautiful places in America.

**WHAT DOES HE LEARN?** A young man entering a Civilian Conservation Center may have finished the eighth grade, but his proficiency in reading and arithmetic is usually far below that level. So the Job Corps concentrates on basic education, improving



reading and arithmetic skills by means of intensive instruction and specially designed materials.

The reading program is designed to improve the performance of a Corpsman so he can read the average book, magazine, vocational training material, and newspaper. The minimum goal of this program is to have trainees attain at least a seventh to eighth grade reading level. Some obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma.

The mathematics curriculum is designed to develop a basic understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. These are the necessary elements if the Corpsman expects to obtain and keep present-day jobs—just one part of the program to improve his chances.

**HOW IS HE TRAINED?** Corpsmen learn occupational skills while doing useful jobs. One learns carpentry, masonry, and plumbing by building camping facilities in a national forest. Another may learn the basics of surveying through work on roads and fire trails on public lands. Another learns how to drive a truck while doing construction work. Another may be introduced to the complexities of heavy-duty earthmoving equipment while laboring on road construction and water conservation sites. Always working under close supervision and instruction. Corpsmen get the opportunity to learn while doing. They earn the satisfaction of doing a job well.

Along with vocational training, a Corpsman learns about promptness, neatness, and teamwork. He finds out how to make appointments for job interviews, how to fill out applications, how to dress and what



to say—all necessary if he is going to have a chance to get ahead.

**WHERE DOES HE LIVE?** In a Civilian Conservation Center, each Corpsman becomes part of a community with living facilities much like those in a military camp. He learns to live under rules that all must obey. These rules and living conditions are designed to help each man learn how to meet deadlines, be at work on time, develop good personal habits, and get along with others. Once learned, such lessons will have great effect on the trainee's conduct when he returns home, and will improve his chances.

**WHAT ABOUT HEALTH?** Even on the physical side, every effort is made to make sure each youth will have the best chance. The Corpsman gets a thorough physical examination upon entering the Job Corps. Health problems are attended to—including minor dental work, and glasses when necessary. The Corpsman takes part in a physical education program which helps him reach and maintain good health.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE FINISHES TRAINING?** The young man who completes training at a Civilian Conservation Center may immediately seek a job, enter military service, participate in an advanced vocational training program, or return to school.

The Job Corps cannot guarantee a job for a Corpsman when he completes his training. However, there is a nationwide placement effort being carried on through the Office of Economic Opportunity, State Employment Services, and other public and private agencies. To date, 70 percent of the Job Corps graduates have been placed in productive jobs. These guys have been given a chance—and are making the most of it.

**AUGUST 1968**





**COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.** The Job Corps and the conservation agencies working in partnership with it are proud of the work being done to give young men from poverty backgrounds another chance. If you want to see for yourself what is being done, you are welcome at Civilian Conservation Centers. To arrange a visit for a group, or for yourself, write for further information to the Regional Forester at the U.S. Forest Service Regional Office nearest to the area you wish to visit. Addresses of the Regional Offices are given below:

Federal Building Missoula, Montana 59801	517 Gold Avenue, S.W. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101
630 Sansome Street San Francisco, California 94111	Federal Center Building 85 Denver, Colorado 80225
324 25th Street Ogden, Utah 84401	319 S.W. Pine Street P. O. Box 3623 Portland, Oregon 97208
710 North Sixth Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203	50 Seventh Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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P. O. Box 1628  
Juneau,  
Alaska 99801